

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A covered animal feeder with mounting brackets, comprising:

a container having a front wall, a back wall, a bottom wall, two sidewalls joined to form a box with an open top, the front wall having at least one opening defined therein through which an animal can retrieve animal feed positioned within the container;

said container having at least one hinge knuckle extending from one of said front wall and said back wall, and adjacent to said open top;

a cover ~~pivotaly attached to the container and~~ for accessing said container when is an open position, and for closing the open top of the container when in a closed position;

said cover having at least one hinge knuckle extending from an edge thereof;

at least one removable hinge pin for coupling each said at least one hinge knuckle of said container to a corresponding at least one hinge knuckle on said cover;

whereby said hinge pin and said hinge knuckles pivotally attaching said cover to said container;

at least one mounting bracket secured to the back wall of the container;

wherein the container is adapted for removably mounting to a livestock fence by sliding said at least one mounting bracket onto a top rail of the livestock fence, so that animal feed can be loaded into said container by pivoting the cover to an open position and inserting animal feed through the open top into the container.

Claim 2. (*Original*) The animal feeder according to claim 1, wherein the bottom wall of said container is sloped downward from the back wall to the front wall, whereby animal feed loaded in said container slides toward the at least one opening in the front wall.

Claim 3. (*Original*) The animal feeder according to claim 1, wherein said container is constructed of a material from the group consisting of plastic, metal and rubber.

Claim 4. (*Original*) The animal feeder according to claim 1, further comprising at least one upper padlock flange extending from said cover, and at least one lower padlock flange extending from said container, each of the upper and lower padlock flanges having an aperture adapted to receive an arm member of a padlock.

Claim 5. (*Currently Amended*) The animal feeder according to claim 1, wherein said at least one hinge knuckle on said container further comprising: includes a first set of opposing hinge knuckles attached to the said back wall and the cover; a second set of opposing hinge knuckles attached to the front wall; and said at least one hinge knuckle on said cover further includes an opposing first set of hinge knuckles on a front edge of the cover, an opposing second set of hinge knuckles on a back edge of the cover; and said at least one removable hinge pin, for selectively connecting said first set of hinge knuckles to said first set of opposing hinge knuckles, and said second set of hinge knuckles with said second set of opposing hinge knuckles;

whereby the said cover optionally pivots on the said back wall or the said front wall by placement of the said hinge pin through the said first or second set of knuckles, respectively.

Claim 6. (*Original*) The animal feeder according to claim 1, further comprising a side dish extending from one of said two sidewalls of said container.

Claim 7. (*Original*) The animal feeder according to claim 1, wherein said at least one mounting bracket is constructed of a material from the group consisting of plastic and metal.

Claim 8. (*Original*) The animal feeder according to claim 1, wherein said container is dimensioned and configured to receive a bale of hay.

Claim 9. (*Original*) The animal feeder according to claim 1, wherein said at least one opening comprises three openings in the front wall, each of said openings having a width of about seven inches.

Claim 10. (*Canceled*)

Claim 11. (New) A covered animal feeder with mounting brackets, comprising:

a container having a front wall, a back wall, a bottom wall, two sidewalls joined to form a box with an open top, the said front wall having at least one opening defined therein through;

whereby an animal can retrieve animal feed positioned within the container;

said container having at least one hinge knuckle extending from one of said front wall and said back wall, and adjacent to said open top;

a cover for accessing said container when is an open position, and for closing the open top of the container when in a closed position;

said cover having at least one hinge knuckle extending from an edge thereof;

at least one removable hinge pin for coupling each said at least one hinge knuckle of said container to a corresponding at least one hinge knuckle on said cover;

whereby said hinge pin and said hinge knuckles pivotally attaching said cover to said container;

at least one inverted J-shape mounting bracket secured to said back wall of said container;

each of said at least one inverted J-shape mounting bracket has a distal leg and a proximal leg opposing the distal leg, said proximal leg being attached to said back wall; and

wherein said container is adapted for mounting to a livestock fence by sliding said distal leg of said at least one inverted J-shape mounting bracket onto a top rail of the livestock fence;

whereby animal feed is loaded into said container by pivoting said cover to the open position and inserting animal feed through said open top into said container.

Claim 12. (New) A covered animal feeder with mounting brackets, comprising:

a container having a front wall, a back wall, a bottom wall, two sidewalls joined to form a box with an open top, said front wall having at least one opening defined therein;

whereby an animal can retrieve animal feed positioned within said container;

a cover for closing said open top of said container;

a first set of opposing hinge knuckles attached to said back wall and said cover;

a second set of opposing hinge knuckles attached to said front wall and said cover; and

at least one hinge pin;

said cover is selectively attached to said container and optionally pivots on said back wall or said front wall by placement of said hinge pin through said first or second set of knuckles, respectively;

at least one mounting bracket secured to said back wall of said container;

wherein said container is adapted for removably mounting to a livestock fence by sliding said at least one removably mounting bracket onto the livestock fence;

whereby animal feed can be loaded into said container by pivoting the cover to an open position and inserting animal feed through the open top into the container.